

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 13051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PEPR, MX, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MEXICAN PRESIDENT'
VISIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11882, (B) MOSCOW 12352

SUMMARY. MFA BRIEFING ON MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
SOVIET UNION ADDS SOME DETAIL TO PREVIOUS REPORTS AND
ANALYSIS OF TALKS, BUT DOES NOT FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS.
SOVIET SOURCE INDICATES THAT VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL, BUT
ADDS THAT TALKS "AT HIGHEST LEVEL" WERE BECALMED WHEN
SOVIET DECISION TO SIGN PROTOCOL II TOOK WIND OUT OF
MEXICAN SAILS. MEXICANS WERE APPARENTLY SURPRISED AND
DISPLEASED WITH "STATEMENT" ACCOMPANYING SOVIET
SIGNATURE ON PROTOCOL II. SOVIET SOURCE EMPHASIZES
SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMEROUS BILATERAL TALKS AT MINISTERIAL
LEVEL AND STATES THAT FISHING AND SHIPPING AGREEMENTS
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WERE AMONG MATTERS DISCUSSED. AMONG AREAS OF SOVIET-
MEXICAN DIFFERENCE, HE SAYS, WERE SEA BEDS AND ENVIRON-
MENTAL WARFARE TREATIES AND UN CHARTER REVISION. END
SUMMARY.

1. DURING JUNE 6 CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND MFA,
LA COUNTRIES DEPT., SECOND SECRETARY VALERIY IVANOVICH

MOROZOV (MEXICO), LATTER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- SOVIETS CONSIDERED LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT QUITE SUCCESSFUL. TWO WORKING SESSIONS AT HIGHEST LEVEL LACKED CERTAIN FOCUS DUE TO PRIOR SOVIET AGREEMENT (IN BREZHNEV'S KOMSOMOL SPEECH) TO SIGN PROTOCOL II OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. HAVING SUDDENLY ACHIEVED THAT FOR WHICH THEY HAD PRESSED FOR TEN YEARS, THE MEXICANS WERE NOT ABLE TO FILL IN THE RESULTANT GAP IN THEIR LIST OF GOALS FOR RHE VISIT. PERHAPS OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE THAN THE TALKS AT THE LEADERSHIP LEVEL WAS THE LARGE NUMBER OF SEPARATE MEETINGS BETWEEN MEXICAN MINISTERS AND OTHER HIGH LEVEL FIGURES AND THEIR SOVIET COUNTER-PARTS. AMONG THE BILATERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE APPROPRIATE MINISTERIAL LEVEL WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON FISHING AND SHIPPING. SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR BILATERAL TRADE WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

-- TERSE COMMUNIQUE DESCRIPTION OF ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS (REFTEL) DOES NOT REFLECT ANY PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES. AFTER THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED ON THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE, SOME OF THE SOVIET DRAFTERS FELT THAT ADDITIONAL WORDS DESCRIBING THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT SINCE THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ENTOURAGE WERE ON THE ROAD AND DID NOT PLAN TO RETURN TO MOSCOW, IT WAS DECIDED TO LET THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAIN AS IT WAS.

-- WITH REGARD TO SOVIET ADVICE TO CUBA ON SIGNING OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, SOVIETS HAD INFORMED CUBANS OF THEIR OWN DECISION TO SIGN BUT HAD NOT PRESSED ISSUE OF CUBAN SIGNING. SOVIET ADHERENCE AND PRIOR U.S. ADHERENCE WILL INCREASE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON CUBA TO SIGN AND ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO RATIFY THE TREATY. HOWEVER, AS SOVIETS TOLD MEXICANS, IT TOOK SOVIET UNION TEN YEARS TO SIGN AND NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT IMMEDIATE CUBAN REVERSAL.

-- MEXICANS WERE NOT INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF VISIT OF SOVIET INTENTION TO ISSUE STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING SOVIET SIGNATURE ON PROTOCOL II. THEY WERE NOT PLEASED WITH THIS SURPRISE. ON OTHER HAND, ISSUANCE OF SUCH PROVISOS IS NORMAL PROCEDURE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OTHER PARTIES TO THE TREATY (INCLUDING THE U.S.) MADE "SIMILAR" STATEMENTS OR INTERPRETATIONS WHEN THEY SIGNED OR RATIFIED THE TREATY.

-- BILATERAL TALKS ON MEXICAN-CUBAN, SOVIET-

SPANISH (AND OTHER) OIL TRADE REMAINED INCONCLUSIVE;
ONE REMAINING PROBLEM IS THE QUALITY OF THE OIL TO BE
DELIVERED. THESE TALKS WILL CONTINUE AND THAT ITSELF
IS ONE PROOF THAT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL FACTORS
INHIBITING CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT IN THIS REGARD.
SOVIET ENRICHMENT OF MEXICAN URANIUM "MIGHT" HAVE BEEN
TOUCHED ON IN A GENERAL WAY DURING THE WORKING LEVEL TALKS
BUT IT WOULD BE MOST PREMATURE TO SPEAK OF CONCRETE PLANS
FOR THIS. IT IS TRUE THAT ENERGY IS ONE OF MEXICO'S
MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS (ALONG WITH AGRICULTURE AND
POPULATION GROWTH) AND THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF
MEXICO'S PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

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HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT MEXICO WILL REMAIN ORIENTED
TOWARD THE U.S. IN THIS FIELD.

-- THE SOVIET SIDE HAD WANTED MORE SPECIFIC
LANGUAGE IN THE COMMUNIQUE ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DEPT OF THE MFA
HAD PREPARED A LENGTHY PARAGRAPH WHICH MENTIONED THE
SITUATION IN LEBANON, THE PLO, ETC., BUT THE MEXICAN
SIDE DID NOT WANT A LOT OF LANGUAGE ON WORLD ISSUES IN
WHICH THEY HAD NO DIRECT INTEREST. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE MEXICANS WANTED EVEN MORE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF

THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO THAN FINALLY APPEARED IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

-- DURING THE DISCUSSION THERE WAS "FRIENDLY" DISAGREEMENT ON SUCH ISSUES AS SOVIET INTEREST IN OBTAINING MEXICAN ADHERENCE TO THE SEA BEDS AND
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ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TREATIES AND MEXICAN INTEREST IN DISCUSSING UN CHARTER REVISION. THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THEREFORE DIFFERENCES OVER THIS ISSUE DID NOT ARISE DURING THE TALKS. THE SOVIETS HAD LONG CONSIDERED THE MEXICAN POSITION THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO SUBSUMED THE PROVISIONS OF THE SEA BEDS TREATY TO BE BASICALLY A BARGAINING TACTIC DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET UNION TO SIGN PROTOCOL II. NOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS SIGNED, THE SOVIET SIDE EXPECTS THAT MEXICO WILL CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SEA BEDS TREATY, AND, IN TIME, WILL SIGN IT.

2. COMMENT. MOROZOV'S EXPLANATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE DESCRIPTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS SOUNDS DISINGENUOUS TO US, BUT HE DID GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF SINCERITY WHEN HE MADE IT. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE NUMEROUS WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS WAS INTERESTING. (MOST OF THESE MEETINGS WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE SOVIET PRESS, BUT COULD BE ASSUMED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE, GIVEN COMPOSITION OF MEXICAN DELEGATION.) THE SMALL MEXICAN EMBASSY STAFF HERE WAS SWAMPED BY THE WORKLOAD DURING THE VISIT AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN VERY MANY OF THESE MEETINGS, THUS THIS MIGHT BE A USEFUL AREA FOR EMBASSY MEXICO TO EXPLORE. SINCE MOROZOV CLAIMED TO BE IGNORANT OF THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS ON CONSULAR MATTERS, WE STILL DO NOT KNOW IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC SOVIET CONSULAR POSTS IN MEXICO. MOROZOV'S COMMENT ON THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS REMAINING IN THE WAY OF A QUADRILATERAL OIL TRADE DEAL ADDS TO OUR CONFUSION ON THIS ISSUE. WHEREAS OUR MEXICAN EMBASSY CONTACT HAD INDICATED THAT THE PROBLEM OF QUALITY HAD BEEN SOLVED, MOROZOV INDICATED THAT IT
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